



## APAS Applauds Both Parties for Ending Strike

*February 17, 2015 – For Immediate Release* – The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) commends Teamsters Canada and Canadian Pacific Railways for resuming negotiations through a mediator and an arbitration process to address outstanding issues.

“Saskatchewan grain producers are pleased that the two sides halted their strike and resumed negotiations,” says Norm Hall, APAS President. “The majority of grain is reliant on rail to reach Canada’s grain customers. As of week 24, rail cars ordered by shippers are behind by 10% or nearly 18,000 cars. Grain producers do not need any interruption in the fluidity of the grain system between inland terminals and ports or North American customers. Rail interruption costs farmers real dollars.”

Grain prices have fallen significantly since the fall of 2013. Movement of grain from the Prairies to end-use customers has been extremely short for an extended period of time and Western Canada’s reputation as a reliable grain supplier has also been damaged. Out of pocket costs to grain producers are significant, ranging up to \$5 billion since 2013.

“Negotiations between employers and employees can result in a strike,” says Hall. “Grain producers are grateful that the work stoppage at CP was short lived and hope that both parties can find a compromise that is workable. One of the concerns at the negotiating table is safety. Safety is paramount in any occupation and our expectation is that the final agreement recognizes the concerns of both parties. In turn, both Teamsters and CPR, need to acknowledge that their respective customers, such as grain producers, require quick, efficient and safe rail service.”

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*APAS is Saskatchewan’s general farm organization formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society.*